

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:
  - defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas;
  - associating each of the plurality of general programme areas with each of the diseases managed by the programme;
  - associating each of the plurality of specific programme areas only with those diseases managed by the programme to which the specific programme area is determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with the disease;
  - awarding points to a member for each of the programme areas in which the member participates, only if the member is afflicted with a disease which is associated with that particular programme area; and
  - allocating a reward to the member if the points awarded to the member accumulate to a predetermined amount.
  
2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein points are only awarded to the member if the member participates in all of the programme areas which are associated with the disease or diseases with which the member is afflicted.

3. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein additional points are awarded to the member if the member participates in all of the programme areas which are associated with the disease or diseases with which the member is afflicted.
4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the general programme areas are ~~one or more~~ some of diet, exercise, smoking and education.
5. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the specific programme areas are one or more of blood pressure, flow volume loop measurement, influenza vaccine, pneumococcal vaccine, cholesterol and long term glucose control.
6. (original) A method according claim 1 further including the steps of:
  - defining a measurable within at least one of the general or specific programme areas so that a members performance within said programme area can be ascertained;
  - defining a minimum level of the measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within the at least one programme area; and
  - awarding points to a member if the member obtains the defined minimum level of a measurable for the at least one programme area only if the member is afflicted with a disease which is associated with that particular programme area.

7. (original) A method according to claim 6 further comprising the step of awarding additional points to the member if the member obtains the minimum level of a measurable for all of the programme areas which are associated with the disease with which the member is afflicted.

8. (original) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas;

associating each of the plurality of general programme areas with each of the diseases managed by the programme;

associating each of the plurality of specific programme areas only with those diseases managed by the programme to which the specific programme area is determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with the disease;

defining a measurable within each of the general and specific programme areas so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

defining a minimum level for each measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within each of the programme areas;

awarding points to a member if the member obtains the minimum level of a measurable for a particular programme area only if the member is afflicted with a disease which is associated with that particular programme area; and

allocating a reward to the member if the points awarded to the member accumulate to a predetermined amount.

9. (original) A method according to claim 8 wherein, additional points are awarded to the member if they obtain the minimum level of a measurable for all of the programme areas which are associated with the disease with which the member is afflicted.

10. (currently amended) A method according to claim 8 wherein the general programme areas are ~~one or more~~ some of diet, exercise, smoking and education.

11. (original) A method according to claim 8 wherein the specific programme areas are one or more of blood pressure, flow volume, loop measurement, influenza vaccine, pneumococcal vaccine, cholesterol and long term glucose control.

12. (original) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas;

associating each of the plurality of general programme areas with each of the diseases managed by the programme;

associating each of the plurality of specific programme areas only with those diseases managed by the programme to which the specific programme area is determined to be of particular benefit to a member who is predisposed to being afflicted with the disease;

awarding points to a member for each of the programme areas in which the member participates, only if the member is predisposed to being afflicted with a disease which is associated with that particular programme area; and

allocating a reward to the member if the points awarded to the member accumulate to a predetermined amount.

13. (original) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas;

associating each of the plurality of general programme areas with each of the diseases managed by the programme;

associating each of the plurality of specific programme areas only with those diseases managed by the programme to which the specific programme area is determined to be of particular benefit to a member who is predisposed to being afflicted with the disease;

defining a measurable within each of the general and specific programme areas so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

defining a minimum level for each measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within each of the programme areas;

awarding points to a member if the member obtains the minimum level of a measurable for a particular programme area only if the member is predisposed to being afflicted with a disease which is associated with that particular programme area; and

allocating a reward to the member if the points awarded to the member accumulate to a predetermined amount.

14. (new) A method according to claim 1 wherein the amount of the reward is related to the amount of points accumulated by the member.

15. (new) A method according to claim 1 wherein the reward is a cash payout or special options on services.

16. (new) A method according to claim 15 wherein the services are one or more of airplane tickets, hotel accommodation and car rentals.

17. (new) A method according to claim 8 wherein the amount of the reward is related to the amount of points accumulated by the member.

18. (new) A method according to claim 8 wherein the reward is a cash payout or special options on services.

19. (new) A method according to claim 16 wherein the services are one or more of airplane tickets, hotel accommodation and car rentals